

KILRUSH MUSICAL SOCIETY

(Past and Present Pupils of Christian Brothers and Convent
of Mercy Schools)



Best wishes

Book and Lyrics by

Harbach,

Hammerstein II,

Mandel.

Music by

Sigmund Romberg

The DESERT SONG

EASTER
WEEK
1952

Best wishes
John Dethrick

Souvenir Programme

Sixpence

GILZA DESIGN
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*With sincere wishes
Miss Barbra*

THE CAST

<i>Sid El Kar (The Red Shadow's Lieutenant)</i>	Joseph O'Donnell
<i>Hassi</i>	Jack Doyle
<i>Mindar</i>	Joe O'Donnell
<i>Hadji (a Riff Farmer)</i>	Sean Doyle
<i>Neri (His Wife)</i>	D. Kelly
<i>Benjamin Kidd (Society Correspondent)</i>	Kevin Barden
<i>Captain Paul Fontaine</i>	Jack McGrath
<i>Lieut. La Vergne</i>	Joseph Egan
<i>Sergt. De Boussac</i>	Gerry Clancy
<i>Margot Bonvalet (General Birabeau's Guest)</i>	Josephine Scanlon
<i>General Birabeau (French Governor)</i>	J. A. Doyle
<i>Pierre (His Son)</i>	John Dethick
<i>Susan (His Ward)</i>	Sheila Howard
<i>Edith (Susan's Friend)</i>	Mary McMahon
<i>Azuri (Ali Ben Ali's Favourite)</i>	Emily Egan
<i>Ali Ben Ali (Caïd of a Riff Tribe)</i>	John Culligan
<i>Clementina (a Spanish Dancer)</i>	Doreen Kelly
<i>Riffs, French Soldiers, Spanish Dancers, Soldiers' Wives, etc.</i>	

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

- ACT I.** Scene 1.—The Retreat of The Red Shadow.
 Scene 2.—Outside General Birabeau's House.
 Scene 3.—A Room in Gen. Birabeau's House.
- ACT II.** Scene 1.—The Harem of Ali Ben Ali.
 Scene 2.—A Corridor.
 Scene 3.—The Room of the Silken Couch.
 Scene 4.—The Edge of the Desert.
 Scene 5.—Courtyard of Gen. Birabeau's House.

DANCING GIRLS

M. Leonard, B. O'Doherty, M. Williams, B. Howard, N. Mahony, K. Fennell,
 M. Reidy, M. Carey.

LADIES OF THE CHORUS

P. Blunnie, B. McKnight, J. Moore, M. Shannon, M. Kelly, P. Dunleavy,
 G. Leahy, J. O'Brien, M. Sheehan, O. Nash, K. Lillis, B. Carmody, M.
 McMahon, S. Moody, P. Melican, J. Finnucane, K. Dixon, A. Harrop, N.
 Fennell, M. Lowe, C. Leahy, M. Kelly.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS

J. Fennell, T. Nash, P. McInerney, E. O'Connor, T. Flynn, W. Looney, T.
 Moloney, J. Clancy, W. Deloughery, S. O'Shea, M. Mahony, J. O'Connor,
 J. Keller, M. Howard, P. J. O'Donnell, P. Fennell, M. Honan, T. Downes,
 L. O'Donnell, T. O'Gorman, V. Dolan, M. McMahon, P. Liddane, P. Shaloo,
 J. Flynn, C. Lynch, M. Doyle, J. Culligan, J. O'Donnell, G. Clancy.

ORCHESTRA

Violins Leader, Mr. Fintan Carroll; Mrs. J. Culligan
Miss Dollie Limerick, Miss Mary Considine.
Bassi Miss Mary Kelly, Miss Ita Mulqueeney
Viola Miss Ita Considine
Cello Miss Rose Carney
Trumpet Mr. Danny O'Connor
Horn Mr. Patrick Kenyon
Clarinet Army Band
Drums and Tympani Mr. Con Phelan
Pianist Miss Aine Hynes

PRODUCER: MRS. JOSEPH FLOOD.

Costumes: Burke's, Dublin.

THE STORY

The scene of "The Desert Song" is laid in French Morocco, where a continual guerilla war with the Riffs is being waged. Pierre Birabeau, son of General Birabeau, is serving under a Colonel of a despotic and violent disposition whose acts of cruelty excite his pity. He remonstrates with his Chief, who so far forgets himself as to strike his junior officer. This decides Pierre on devoting his life to stamping out these unnecessary atrocities which, in his opinion, are disgracing France. He pretends that the blow has made him stupid and he is relieved of his commission. He joins the Riffs as their mysterious leader and quickly becomes known as the Red Shadow. He plays a dual role—at one time "Poor Pierre," the milksop, at others the brave and dashing Red Shadow. He carries on his chivalrous duplicity until General Fontaine dies and his father is appointed to the Governorship, whilst Paul Fontaine, son of the late General, is appointed second in command. These two have one object in view—the wiping out of the Red Shadow. The lady in the case is Margot Bonvalet, whom Pierre secretly adores, but who imagines herself in love with Paul Fontaine. She arrives in Morocco, and her father wires General Birabeau that, as all Paris is talking of her, she must marry Paul at once.

In the meantime, Margot's romantic aspirations have been fired by the deeds of the mysterious Red Shadow. Pierre gives her the desired surprise of being carried off by the desert warrior. He brings her to the palace of Ali Ben Ali, who, fearing trouble, offers him other women if he will let Margot go, but Pierre refuses.

Azuri, a native dancing girl, has discovered Pierre's secret, and from motives of jealousy leads General Birabeau to the palace, where he challenges the Red Shadow to fight. As he cannot fight his own father, Pierre surrenders his sword, and is branded as a coward, and according to the law of the tribe is driven forth into the desert without food, his only weapon—"a broken sword." Margot is taken back to the Governor's residence, realising now that she really loves the Red Shadow. Azuri now claims her reward, but the General, disgusted with the part she has played, asks her how she knew the Red Shadow would not fight. To his horror, he realises he has given orders to his soldiers to go out and slay his own son. The soldiers return and tell him the Red Shadow has been killed and that none other than Pierre has done the killing. Margot confesses her love for the Red Shadow, and is over-joyed when she learns that the half-witted Pierre and the Red Shadow are one and the same individual.

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